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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/798,987	03/12/2004	Vijay Deshmukh	5693P052	6878
48102	7590	09/06/2007	EXAMINER	
NETWORK APPLIANCE/BLAKELY			LIE, ANGELA M	
1279 OAKMEAD PARKWAY			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
SUNNYVALE, CA 94085-4040			2163	
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
09/06/2007		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

**Supplemental
Notice of Allowability**

Application No.	Applicant(s)	
10/798,987	DESHMUKH ET AL.	
Examiner	Art Unit	
Angela M. Lie	2163	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 5/17/2007.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 29-39 and 41-55.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

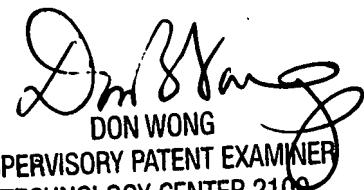
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.


 DON WONG
 SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
 TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

1. *The supplemental notice of allowance has been issued in order to correct the listing of the allowed claims. Claim 40 previously indicated allowable, has been excluded as the applicant in the final set of submitted claims had canceled it.*

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
3. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Jordan Becker on June 22, 2007.
4. The application has been amended as follows:

Please amend the claims as shown in attached amendment provided by the applicant on June 26, 2007.
5. The Examiner's amendment involving minor changes to the claims has been made in order to maintain consistency among the claims and furthermore to overcome 35 U.S.C 102(e) (regarding claim 39) and therefore place this application in condition for allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. **Claims 29-39 and 41-55 are allowed.**
7. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As to claims 29, 39 and 48, the prior art does not teach a method and apparatus comprising: a storage system management application, a first agent processing system, a second agent processing system, a physical storage facility, plurality of storage servers, wherein first and second agents gather information about hierarchical structure of data maintained by the same storage server and storing those information in physical storage facility, which is accessed by the storage system management application, and further wherein two of the agent processing systems and a storage system management application are separate systems.

As to claims 30-38, 41-47 and 49-55, those claims are allowed by the virtue of their dependency on claims 29, 39 and 48 respectively.

1. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

The Prior Art

2. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Park (US Publication No. 2005/0108484) discloses the backup system wherein the volume of a storage device is divided into the blocks in order to backup data in parallel by plurality of agents. This reference however does not teach agents and management storage system being separate systems and it also does not teach

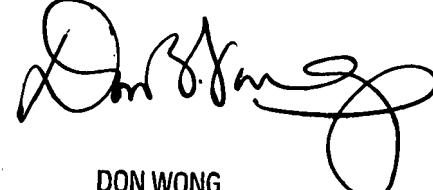
storage system management application accessing the storage facility for the information about the data in the storage server.

Inquiry

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Angela M. Lie whose telephone number is 571-272-8445. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.
4. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Don Wong can be reached on 571-272-1834. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.
5. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



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